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To these Indians the last document of the collection, "Descripción de la provincia de Guatemala," 1594, by Juan de Pineda, belongs. It is preceded by a royal mandate to the author, appointing him to the task of making a census of all the Indians of Guatemala directly depending on the crown, for the purpose of proper collection of the tribute. The fruit of this decree is the "descripción" here mentioned, and, while it is dry and purely matter of fact, it becomes the more valuable since it presents in a condensed form the population of Guatemala, especially as regards the Indians, a number of brief allusions to topography and to the agricultural and other resources of the country as known to a man who had lived in Guatemala since 1552. This report may, in some respect, not be regarded as fully impartial. The object of Pineda was, to prove to the King that the crown did not derive the proper revenue from the Indians; their condition, therefore, and the resources of their lands may be represented in a manner somewhat too florid. But under any circumstances the document is, together with the description of Panamá from 1607, the most important and valuable one of the whole collection.

The lack of systematic arrangement of the collection is on a par with the well known "Documentos inéditos de Indias." Few, if any, of the Spanish publications of the kind escape that criticism. Even the regretted Marcos Jiménez de la Espada, although far superior to the editor of the present volume in knowledge and method of handling of American documents, did not find it feasible to introduce strict chronological sequence in the "Relaciones geográficas de Indias." Still he did at least observe geographical grouping, at which there is only a faint attempt in the book before us.

A. F. B.

**Old Steamboat Days on the Hudson River.** By David Lear Buckman. viii and 143 pp., 22 Illustrations, and Index. The Grafton Press, New York, 1907. (Price, \$1.25.)

The author has brought together highly interesting data collected from many sources and relating to the beginnings and development of steam traffic on the Hudson. He tells of Robert Fulton and his first steamboat, the early craft that plied between New York and Albany, the exciting rivalries of competing lines, the floating towns of canal boats, the evolution of steamboat construction, and the palatial steamers of to-day. These tales and reminiscences supply an absorbing chapter in our country's history.

**Ripios Geográficos por Antonio de Valbuena (Miguel de Escalada).** 8vo, 334 pp. Victoriano Suárez, Madrid, 1905.

This BULLETIN is a geographical, not a political, publication, and it cannot, therefore, discuss the merits of a book devoted exclusively to bitter and often offensively personal criticism of the official geographical institutions of a foreign country. If the misdemeanors and mistakes noted in this book are only partly true, they would indicate for the geographical institutes of Spain a deplorable condition. The author passes in review successively the "Instituto Geográfico," the "Depósito de la Guerra," the Astronomical Observatory, the direction of Public Works, the Dirección de Correos and, finally, some private geographical publications. Nothing finds grace before his eyes, everything is wrong and badly managed, and it would seem as if ignorance, incompetency, and dishonesty ran riot in everything connected with geographical work in and by Spain. That country is probably not much worse than others; favoritism, protection of igno-

rance, provided the latter is coupled with audacity and bluff, speculation and peculation infest other countries and other fields of science as well, and while we regret that the author of the "Ripios" finds such material for grave condemnation in his native land and among his people we are far from pointing at Spain with the feeling that it is much better here or elsewhere. The book is written with spirit, and shows a certain knowledge of intimate facts wielded with as much dexterity as acrimony. It is for Spaniards exclusively to decide what is true or not in this bitter and venomous onslaught on the government of their nation and the dignity and efficacy of their scientific institutions.

A. F. B.

**The North American Indian. By Edward S. Curtis. Edited by Frederick Webb Hodge.** In 20 volumes. Vols. I and II. Copiously illustrated by photographs taken by the author, and each volume accompanied by a folio of photogravures. The University Press, Cambridge, U. S. A. [Branch], 1907.

In this sumptuous series of volumes Mr. Curtis proposes to picture and describe the Indians of the United States and Alaska. It is an *édition de luxe*, limited to 500 sets, and all the resources of the printing and pictorial arts are utilized to make the work a superb production. The first volume is devoted to the Navaho and the Apache and the second to nine tribes—the Pima, Papago, Qahat'ka, Mohave, Yuma, Maricopa, Walapai, Havasupai, and Yavapai.

From about 15 to 50 pages are given to each tribe, describing their habitat and life, mythology, medicine men, rites and ceremonies. At the end of each volume is a summary of each tribe as to its language, population, dress, dwellings, primitive foods, industries, etc., and a full index.

Mr. Curtis has lived much of the time, for the past ten years, among various tribes, and his field work will be continued for years to come. Primarily a photographer, the pictorial feature of these books is the one that will especially attract attention. His photographs are artistic and beautiful and the photogravures are superb. It is often evident that the setting of his Indian pictures has been very carefully selected for the best effect, and the suspicion may often arise that single figures or groups have been posed for artistic purposes. This is certainly reasonable in a book that is intended to be artistic and is necessarily very costly, though the ethnologist will doubtless interpose the objection that many of the pictures give an impression of the Indian, possibly as he ought to be, but not as he really is.

The letterpress is all the more interesting because Mr. Curtis is deeply in sympathy with his subject and has lived with it for years. But his broadly general way of treating the topic is not scientific method, nor can it lead to scientific conceptions of the Indian. These beautiful volumes occupy a field of their own and do not claim to be anything they are not.

**The Elements of Geography. By J. H. N. Stephenson.** Part I—General Geography. xiii and 160 pp., Illustrations, and Maps. Edward Stanford, London, 1908. (Price, 3s. 6d.)

The introductory volume of a work intended to be neither "physical" nor "regional" geography, but to coordinate and link them together. The author's aim is to show the mutual relations between physical, regional, and applied geography. His purpose is in line with the new tendency to give greater weight in